

### REMARKS

Claims 44-52, 54, and 57-68 are pending in the present application. Claims 44-68 were presented for examination. Claims 53, 55, and 56, have been cancelled by amendment.

In the office action mailed December 3, 2003 ("the Office Action"), claim 44 was objected to for informalities. Claim 55 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 53 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,296,400 to Park *et al.* ("the Park patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,593,459 to Poppert *et al.* ("the Poppert patent"). Claims 57 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Park patent in view of the Poppert patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,318,924 to Lin *et al.* ("the Lin patent"). Claims 54 and 59 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 44-52 and 61-68 were allowed.

With respect to the objection to claim 44, claim 44 was amended as suggested by the Examiner. With respect to the rejection of claims 55 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claim 60 has been amended to correct the typographical error. Claim 55 has been cancelled, and consequently, the rejection of claim 55 is now moot. Therefore, the objection to claim 44, and the rejection of claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn. It will be apparent that none of previously mentioned amendments narrow or further limit the scope of the invention as recited by the respective claim. Generally, the amendments were made to make explicit what is implicit in the claim or correct a typographical error. Consequently, the amendments should not be construed as being "narrowing amendments," because these amendments were not made for a substantial reason related to patentability.

Claim 54 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 59 has similarly amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, claims 54 and 59 are in condition for allowance. The amendment made to claims 54 and 59 have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims are unpatentable. Moreover,

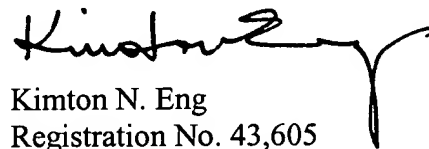
Applicants' have not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterization of the cited references is accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicants' have tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

Claims 57, 58, and 60, which have been amended to depend from allowable claim 59, are also in condition for allowance based on their dependency from an allowable base claim. Therefore, the rejection of claims 57, 58, and 60 should be withdrawn.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



Kimton N. Eng  
Registration No. 43,605  
Telephone No. (206) 903-8718

KNE:ajs

Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP  
1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3400  
Seattle, WA 98101-4010  
(206) 903-8800 (telephone)  
(206) 903-8820 (fax)

h:\ip\documents\clients\micron technology\00\500055.02\500055.02 amendment 6.doc